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## Pentagon Issues Report on Soviet Military Strength

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The Soviet Union, while continuing to develop more lethal nuclear missiles, has embarked on a massive program to protect its land-based arsenal while attaining parity with the United States in the development of cruise missiles, the Defense Department said yesterday.

The Soviets also have a crude but workable laser weapon capable of blinding low-orbit reconnaissance satellites, and are continuing to pour the equivalent of billions of dollars into further modernization of their conventional weapons, the department said.

Those and other conclusions were outlined in a new booklet, "Soviet Military Power," released by Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger.

The annual study, the fifth prepared by the Pentagon, was described as an unclassified version of Defense Intelligence Agency reports that document what the Reagan administration has described as a relentless Soviet military buildup.

"Soviet [weapons] modernization has not abated," Weinberger said yesterday. "Based on current trends, our projections for the '90s give us no reason to feel that we can rest in our effort to prevent the Soviets from achieving a very significant, exploitable military advantage."

"They have more weapons of higher quality and higher capability."

The slick, 156-page booklet is crammed with color charts, photos and graphs, including previously unreleased pictures of an intermediate-range, three-warhead SS20 missile on its launcher; the newest version of the Delta ballistic-missile submarine, now said to be on sea

trials; and the SU27 Fencer, a fighter resembling the U.S. F15 that the Pentagon says became operational early this year.

The new study concluded that the Soviets are developing two and possibly three new intercontinental ballistic missiles, adding, "By the mid-1990s, the Soviet ICBM force will have been almost entirely replaced with new systems, a number of which may violate SALT II constraints."

The study further disclosed that the Soviets have deployed more than 70 mobile SS25 ICBMs, a missile condemned by the United States as a violation of the SALT II arms treaty.

Weinberger disclosed the first deployments of the single-warhead SS25 last fall.

The Soviets maintain the missile is an allowable modernization of the aging SS13, a contention dismissed by the Pentagon. Last January, Weinberger put the number of operational SS25s at 45, but the booklet raised that number to "over 70 launchers deployed."

The United States does not have any mobile missiles although it is now developing one, dubbed the Midgetman. While production of the Midgetman is years away, the Pentagon predicted that the Soviets would deploy a second mobile ICBM—a rail-mobile version of the giant SSX24—"as early as late 1986."